**STANDARDIZED EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT SYSTEM**

**APPROVED COURSE OF INSTRUCTION**

**FIELD COURSE**

# MUTUAL AID

**MODULE 16**
**I-400**

**PARTICIPANT**
**REFERENCE**
**MANUAL**
**2003**

**STANDARDIZED EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT SYSTEM**

**APPROVED COURSE OF INSTRUCTION**

# MODULE 16

# MUTUAL AID

**2003**

**PARTICIPANT REFERENCE MANUAL**

# Table of Contents

This Module describes the concepts and procedures of California's Master Mutual Aid Agreement, and the related Mutual Aid Systems currently in existence. At the completion of this module, participants should be able to achieve the minimum performance objectives listed, through knowledge, skills or abilities related to the following topic areas:

Objectives

1.  California Mutual Aid Program.

2.  Process for Mutual Aid coordination.

3.  Mutual Aid Systems description.

4.  Mutual Aid request procedure.

5.  Command and support of on-scene Mutual Aid resources.

# I. The California Mutual Aid Program

California has a well developed and tested statewide Mutual Aid program. The Mutual Aid program is a primary component of the State's Standardized Emergency Management System (SEMS). The implementation of SEMS should improve the effectiveness of the Mutual Aid program, but will not affect how existing Mutual Aid systems are structured or operated.

The California Mutual Aid Program has several different components. These are:

- A statewide Master Mutual Aid Agreement
- Six Mutual Aid Regions
- Several Discipline Specific Mutual Aid Systems
- Well established and tested Mutual Aid coordination processes.

## A. Description of Mutual Aid

Larger incidents frequently require resource assistance that exceed the inventories and or capabilities of the affected response agencies and jurisdictions. When this occurs voluntary aid is provided by other agencies, local governments, and the state.

## B. The Master Mutual Aid Agreement

Mutual Aid is provided between and among local jurisdictions and the state under the terms of the California Disaster and Civil Defense Master Mutual Aid Agreement. This agreement was developed in 1950 and has been adopted by California's incorporated cities, all 58 counties and the State.

The Master Mutual Aid Agreement states that each party agrees to furnish resources and facilities and to render services to each and every other party to combat any type of disaster. However, no party is required to unreasonably deplete its own resources, facilities, and services in the process of furnishing Mutual Aid.

A copy of the Master Mutual Aid Agreement is found at the end of the Participant Reference Manual.

## C. Mutual Aid and OES Administrative Regions

### 1. Mutual Aid Regions

Mutual Aid Regions are established under the Emergency Services Act by the Governor, who with the advice of the State's Emergency Council is authorized to divide the state into Mutual Aid Regions for the more effective application, administration, and coordination of Mutual Aid and other emergency related activities.

## OES
### CALIFORNIA
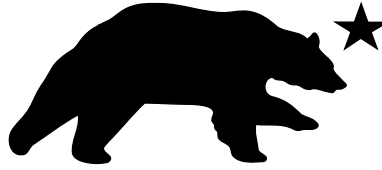
**Governor's Office of Emergency Services**

# Mutual Aid and Administrative Regions

**Inland Region**

**Coastal Region**

**Southern Region**

Counties shown on map: DEL NORTE, SISKIYOU, MODOC, TRINITY, SHASTA, LASSEN, HUMBOLT, TEHAMA, PLUMAS, GLENN, BUTTE, SIERRA, MENDOCINO, COLUSA, YUBA, NEVADA, PLACER, LAKE, YOLO, SUTTER, EL DORADO, ALPINE, SONOMA, NAPA, SACRAMENTO, AMADOR, CALAVERAS, TUOLUMNE, MARIN, SOLANO, SAN JOAQUIN, STANISLAUS, 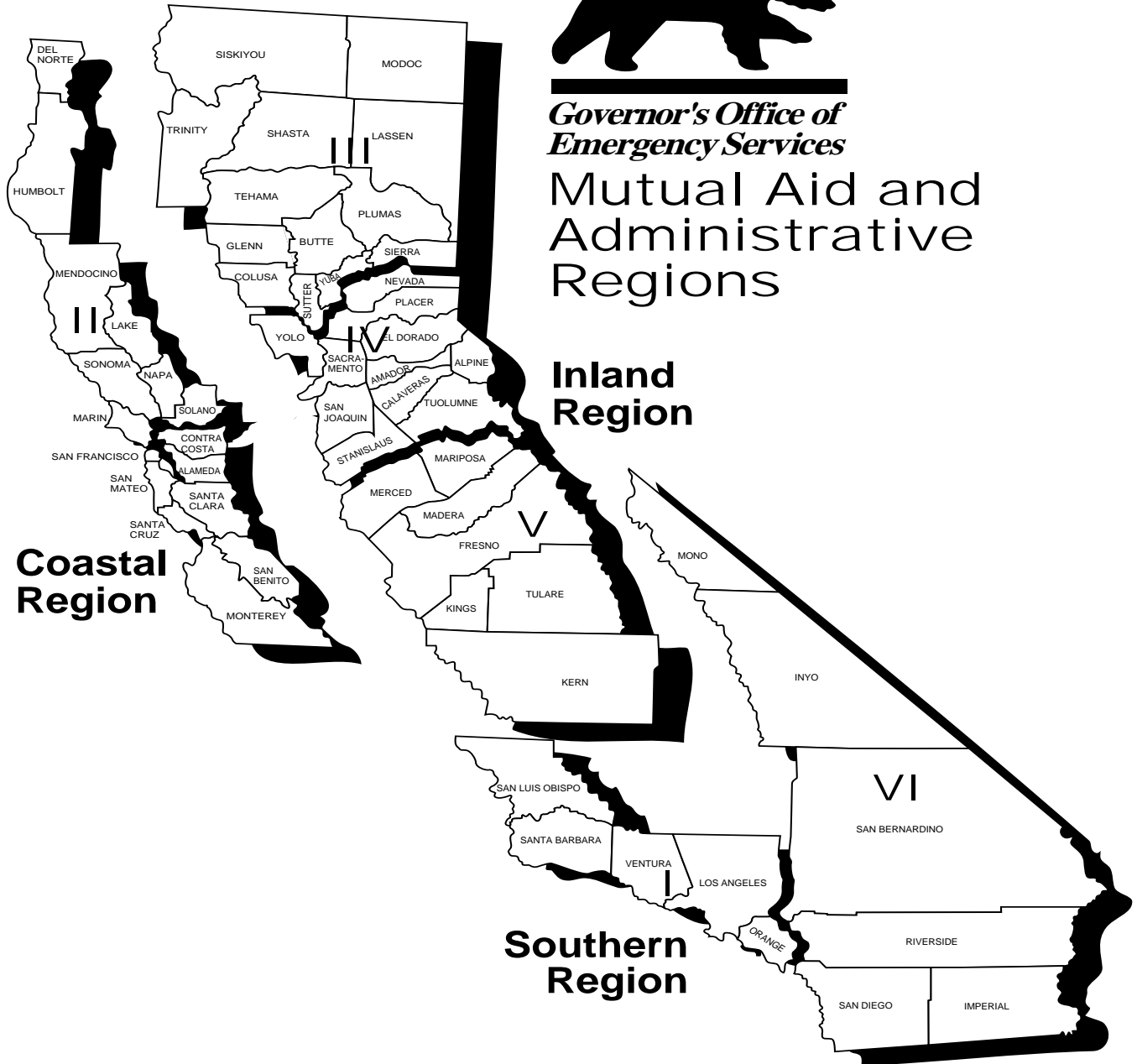MARIPOSA, CONTRA COSTA, SAN FRANCISCO, ALAMEDA, SAN MATEO, SANTA CLARA, MERCED, MADERA, SANTA CRUZ, SAN BENITO, FRESNO, MONO, MONTEREY, TULARE, KINGS, KERN, INYO, SAN LUIS OBISPO, SAN BERNARDINO, SANTA BARBARA, VENTURA, LOS ANGELES, ORANGE, RIVERSIDE, SAN DIEGO, IMPERIAL

Regions: II, III, IV, V, VI

Six Mutual Aid Regions numbered I – VI, have been established within California. (There are seven law enforcement Mutual Aid Regions.) Each Mutual Aid Region consists of designated counties. California Mutual Aid Regions and their designated counties are shown on the following map diagram.

2. Administrative Regions

The Office of Emergency Services has divided the state into three Administrative Regions; Inland, Coastal and Southern. Administrative Regions provide OES coordination of the Emergency Services Mutual Aid system for Mutual Aid Regions.

## II.    General Process for Mutual Aid Coordination

The general flow of Mutual Aid resource requests and resources within established statewide Mutual Aid systems are shown. This graphic assumes that local Mutual Aid agreements have already been used.

At the local government level, the need for Mutual Aid is determined by the jurisdiction in need of assistance. Under SEMS, incidents will normally request additional resources through department dispatch or department operations centers (DOCs) or through local government emergency operations centers (EOCs). Local governments request Mutual Aid from neighboring jurisdictions on the basis of existing agreements, or through their operational area.

Operational area coordinators designated by the discipline specific Mutual Aid system will locate and coordinate the acquisition of the requested aid first from jurisdictions within the operational area (including county owned resources).

If sufficient resources are still not available, the operational area coordinator forwards the request to the regional level. The Mutual Aid system regional coordinator (which may differ in name and location by Mutual Aid system), will attempt to fill the resource order from Mutual Aid suppliers for that Mutual Aid system within the region. If sufficient resources are still not available, the request will be forwarded to the state level which will fill the resource request from other Mutual Aid Regions within the state, from interstate sources and/or from private and federal sources.

Under SEMS, the region level coordinates information and resources among the operational areas within the Mutual Aid region and between the operational areas and the state level. The regional level along with the state level coordinates overall state agency support for emergency response activities.

A. Mutual Aid System Representatives to EOCs

To facilitate the coordination of Mutual Aid, discipline-specific Mutual Aid systems work through designated Mutual Aid coordinators at the operational area, regional, and state levels. The basic role of a Mutual Aid coordinator at all SEMS levels, is to receive and process Mutual Aid requests, to coordinate the provision of resources from within the coordinator's geographic area of responsibility, and to pass unfilled requests to the next level.

Mutual aid coordinators may function from their normal departmental location, from an EOC, or from other locations depending on the policy and procedures for the particular

Mutual Aid system. Mutual Aid coordinators typically handle Mutual Aid requests from their normal day to day coordination work location.

## MUTUAL AID SYSTEM CONCEPT:
## GENERAL FLOW OF REQUESTS AND RESOURCES
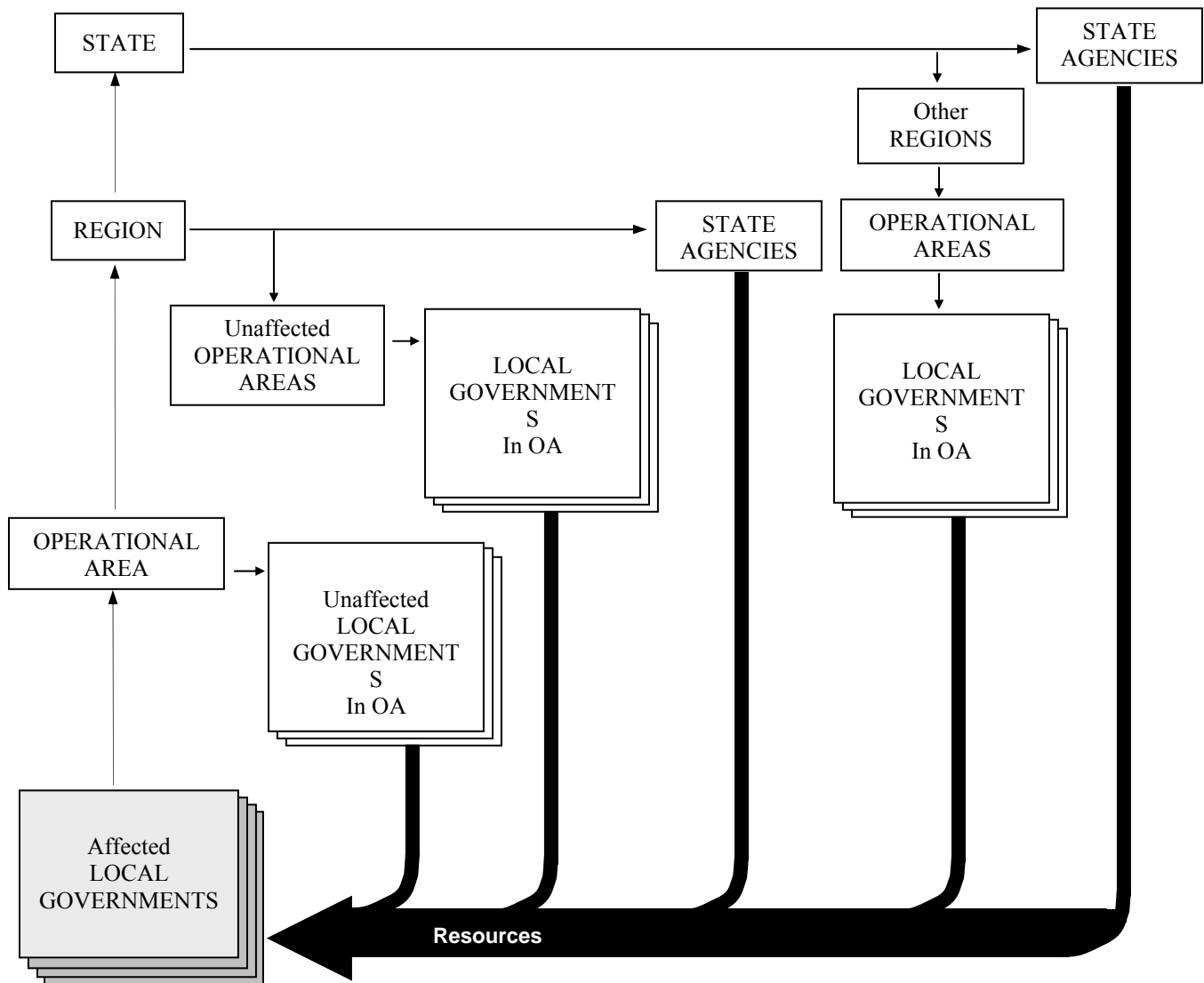


Resource Requests

OA – Operational Area

Note: Local governments may request mutual aid directly from other local governments where local agreements exist.

Discipline-specific mutual aid systems may have procedures that provide additional methods of obtaining state resources.

Volunteer and private agencies may be involved at each level.

When EOCs are activated for major incidents or disasters, all activated discipline-specific Mutual Aid systems should have a representative located at appropriate operational area, region and state level EOCs to facilitate coordination and information flow. The level of the representation will be determined based on the nature of the emergency and the requirement for coordination.

Each Mutual Aid system has established procedures for handling Mutual Aid requests. These procedures do not change under SEMS. Mutual Aid system representatives assigned to EOCs do not process Mutual Aid requests unless that responsibility has been assigned to them by the Mutual Aid system they represent.

The Mutual Aid system representatives job in the EOC, is to assist in obtaining information from the EOC that may be useful or improve the effectiveness of the Mutual Aid system, to pass information to the EOC about the status of resources and resource commitments of the Mutual Aid system, and to provide coordination services as required.

- When an operational area EOC is activated, operational area Mutual Aid system representatives should be at the operational area EOC if that Mutual Aid system has been activated.

- When a OES regional EOC (REOC) is activated, regional Mutual Aid system representatives should be at the REOC for those Mutual Aid systems which have been activated. State agencies may be requested to send representatives to the state regional EOC to assist OES regional staff in handling Mutual Aid requests for disciplines or functions that do not have designated Mutual Aid coordinators.

- When the State Operations Center (SOC) is activated, state agencies with Mutual Aid coordination responsibilities will be requested to send representatives to the SOC.

Mutual Aid representatives assigned to an EOC may be located in the REOC organization as part of functional sections, branches, or units, or they may participate as Agency Representatives depending on how the EOC is organized and the extent to which it is activated.

B. OES Regional Emergency Operations Centers (REOCs)

OES provides coordination for Emergency Services Mutual Aid for the six Mutual Aid Regions through three OES Regional Emergency Operations Centers (REOCs). REOC assignments are as follows:

- Mutual Aid Regions I and VI - Coordinated by the OES Southern Region EOC (Southern REOC).

- Mutual Aid Region II - Coordinated by the OES Coastal Region EOC (Coastal REOC).

- Mutual Aid Regions III, IV, V - Coordinated by the OES Inland Region EOC (Inland REOC).

C. Emergency Facilities Used to Support Mutual Aid

Three types of facilities may be established to receive and process in-coming Mutual Aid resources:

- Marshaling areas
- Mobilization centers
- Staging areas

Marshaling Area: A location used for assembling personnel and other resources prior to their being sent to a disaster area. Marshaling areas may even be out of state locations.

Mobilization Center: An off-incident location at which emergency service personnel and equipment are temporarily located pending assignment, release, or reassignment. For major area-wide disasters, mobilization centers may be located in or on the periphery of the disaster area.

Staging Area: A temporary location at an incident where personnel and equipment are kept while awaiting tactical assignments. Staging Areas should if possible be located within five minutes travel time to the area of expected need. An incident may have more than one Staging Area. Staging areas are discussed further in the Field Level Course of Instruction; Module 4 - Incident Facilities, and in the SEMS Guidelines.

D. Participation of Volunteer and Private Agencies in Mutual Aid

Volunteer agencies and private agencies may participate in a Mutual Aid system along with governmental agencies. Some volunteer agencies such as the Red Cross, Salvation Army and others are an essential element of the statewide emergency response to meet the needs of disaster victims.

Volunteer agencies mobilize volunteers and other resources through their own systems. They also may identify resource needs that are not met within their own systems that would be requested through the Mutual Aid system. Volunteer agencies with extensive involvement in the emergency response should be represented in EOCs at all appropriate levels.

Some private agencies have established Mutual Aid arrangements to assist other private agencies within their functional area. For example, some municipal electric and gas utilities have Mutual Aid agreements within their discipline, and have procedures for coordinating with local governmental EOCs. In some functional areas, services are provided by a mix of special district, municipal, and private agencies. Mutual Aid arrangements may include both governmental and private agencies.

Liaison should be established between activated EOCs and private agencies involved in a response. Where there is a need for extensive coordination and information exchange, private agencies should be represented in activated EOCs at the appropriate SEMS level.

## III. Mutual Aid Systems

Several statewide Mutual Aid systems have been established within the California Mutual Aid Program. These systems, all of which operate within the framework of the Master Mutual Aid Agreement, allow for the progressive mobilization of resources to and from emergency response agencies, local governments, operational areas, regions, and state.

In addition to the formalized statewide systems, a variety of written and in some cases informal Mutual Aid agreements exist between local governments.

With the exception of Disaster Medical/Health, all established Mutual Aid systems in the state are coordinated <u>at the state level</u> by the Governor's Office of Emergency Services (OES).

OES coordinates Mutual Aid through three independently networked systems: Emergency Services, Fire and Rescue, and Law Enforcement. These are also often referred to as channels of Mutual Aid coordination. Disaster Medical/Health Mutual Aid operates as a fourth channel, and is coordinated by the State's Emergency Medical Services Authority (EMSA).

The California Mutual Aid Program, channels of coordination and Mutual Aid systems are as follows.

| **CALIFORNIA MUTUAL AID PROGRAM**<br>**MUTUAL AID SYSTEMS AND**<br>**CHANNELS OF STATEWIDE MUTUAL AID COORDINATION** | | | |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **COORDINATED BY STATE OES** | | | **COORDINATED BY EMSA** |
| **Fire and Rescue** | **Law Enforcement** | **Emergency Services** | **Disaster Medical** |
| Fire Mutual Aid System | Coroners Mutual Aid System | All other emergency services Mutual Aid not included in other systems. | Disaster Medical Mutual Aid System |
| Urban Search and Rescue System | Law Enforcement Mutual Aid System | Volunteer Engineers Mutual Aid System[1] | |
| | Search and Rescue Mutual Aid System (non urban) | Public Works Mutual Aid System[1] | |
| | | Emergency Managers Mutual Aid System[1] | |
| | | Hazardous Materials Mutual Aid System[1] | |
| | | Water Agency Response Network (WARN)[1] | |

[1] Systems currently under development

It is important to remember that the implementation and use of SEMS does not alter the makeup or the functioning of existing Mutual Aid systems. The Mutual Aid systems work within the SEMS levels of local government, operational area, regional and state levels in the same manner that they worked prior to SEMS, with additional emphasis placed on the need for Mutual Aid system representatives in activated operational area EOCs and REOCs.

Following are brief descriptions of established Mutual Aid systems found in the California Mutual Aid Program. See references for detailed plans and procedures.

A.  Mutual Aid Coordinated Through the Fire and Rescue Mutual Aid Channel

California Fire Service and Rescue Emergency Mutual Aid coordinates requests for:

1.  All fire and rescue resources contained within the associated resource inventory available to statewide fire resources.

2.  Requests for Urban Search and Rescue resources, including US&R companies, US&R crews and State/National Urban Search and Rescue Task Forces.

Procedure:

Local governments determine resource needs for fire and rescue resources in support of incidents, and fill incident requests from local sources where available. Unfilled requests and requests for specialized resources are directed to Fire and Rescue Operational Area Coordinators.

Operational Area Fire and Rescue Coordinators function from twenty-four hour a day dispatch centers capable of direct communication with all fire and rescue agencies in the operational area. Operational areas are typically counties. (Los Angeles County because of its size has been divided into seven Fire and Rescue Operational Areas. Each of these areas contains several jurisdictions, with the Los Angeles County unincorporated area comprising one of the Operational Areas.) Fire and Rescue Operational Area Coordinators are elected by local fire chiefs within the operational area.

Operational Area Fire and Rescue Coordinators will fill local government requests for resources from available resources within the Fire and Rescue Operational Area. Unfilled requests will be directed to the Fire and Rescue Regional Coordinator.

There are six Fire and Rescue Regional Coordinators corresponding to the State's six Mutual Aid Regions. The Regional Fire and Rescue Coordinator is elected by Fire and Rescue Operational Area Coordinators. Regional Fire and Rescue Mutual Aid Coordinators will fill resource requests from an operational area from other operational areas within the region.

Unfilled resource requests will be directed to the State Fire and Rescue Coordinator at OES Headquarters in Sacramento to fill from other regions, from other states based on pre-existing agreements, and or federal sources. State level coordination for Fire and Rescue is accomplished at the Fire Operations Coordination Centers (OCCs).

(Ref. OES Fire and Rescue Plan 9/88)

B. Mutual Aid Coordinated Through the Law Enforcement Mutual Aid Channel

The California Law Enforcement Mutual Aid System coordinates the following:

1. Law Enforcement Mutual Aid Resources.

2. Search and Rescue Mutual Aid Resources (non urban).

3. Coroners Mutual Aid Resources.

Procedure:

The coordination process for each of the systems coordinated through the Law Enforcement Mutual Aid System are basically the same, with exceptions as noted.

Local police departments determine resource needs, and fill incident requests from local sources where available. Unfilled requests, or requests for specialized resources are directed to county level Law Enforcement Operational Area Coordinators. In some cases, a county medical examiner will function as the county coroner coordinator. Where applicable, the County Sheriff may function as both the Law Enforcement and Coroner Operational Area Coordinator.

Operational Area Law Enforcement Coordinators are the sheriffs of the counties. (The exception is the City and County of San Francisco where the operational area coordinator is the chief of police for the city and county).

Operational Area Law Enforcement Coordinators will fill local government requests for resources from available resources within the Law Enforcement Operational Area. Unfilled requests will be directed to the Law Enforcement Regional Coordinator.

There are seven Law Enforcement Mutual Aid Regions and Regional Coordinators. (Region I of the State's Mutual Aid Regions has been divided into two regions for law enforcement and coroner coordination purposes). A Regional Law Enforcement Coordinator is the Sheriff of one of the counties within the region who is elected by the Operational Area Law Enforcement Coordinators. The regional law enforcement Coordinator will fill resource requests from other operational areas within the region.

Unfilled requests will be directed to the State Law Enforcement Coordinator at the REOC. The State Law Enforcement Coordinator will fill resource requests for law enforcement, search and rescue (non urban) and coroners from other regions, from state agencies, other states by pre-existing agreements or from private or federal sources.

The Coroners Mutual Aid System functions within the Law Enforcement Mutual Aid channels, with the exception that the Operational Area is the lowest level. The Coroner

Operational Area Coordinator will be the coroner/medical examiner of the county. The Regional Coroner Coordinator will be elected by the Operational area coordinators.

(Ref. Law Enforcement Mutual Aid - Coroners Annex, June 1991).

C. Mutual Aid Coordinated Through the Emergency Medical Channel

The Emergency Medical Services Authority coordinates the state's medical response to major disasters through a statewide disaster medical Mutual Aid organization.

Procedure

Local jurisdictions are responsible to respond to disasters using the available resources of hospitals, private sector and voluntary medical and health organizations and agencies. Unfilled resource requests will be directed to the Operational Area Disaster Medical/ Health Coordinator.

The Operational Area Disaster Medical/Health Coordinator is the County Director of Health/County Health Officer, or as designated. In many counties, the coordination role is assigned to the Administrator of the Local Emergency Medical Services (EMS) agency.

Regional Disaster Medical/Health Coordinators (RDMHCs) are nominated by the Health Officers in their respective Office of Emergency Services Mutual Aid Regions and dually appointed by the Director, State Department of Health and the Director, EMSA.

The Operational Area Disaster Medical/Health Coordinator will fill resource requests from available disaster medical resources within the operational area. Requests for medical Mutual Aid can flow in three possible ways:

1. Operational Area to REOC Medical and Health Branch to a Joint Emergency Operations Center (JEOC) operated by DHS/EMSA then to RDMHCs in unimpacted areas.

2. Operational Area to the RDMHC of the impacted area then to the JEOC and RDMHCs in unimpacted areas.

3. Operational Area to EMSA DOC (Sacramento) at the disaster scene then to the JEOC and RDMHCs in unimpacted regions.

The method that is selected will be determined based on the level of development of the Disaster Medical/Health Coordinator function in the region, the way in which regional and state disaster management have developed, and the size and sophistication of the operational area.

(Ref. EMSA Disaster Medical Response Plan July 1992 and EMSA correspondence of October 11, 1994).

D.  Mutual Aid Coordinated Through the OES Emergency Services Channel

The Emergency Services Mutual Aid channel will coordinate for the following:

1. Emergency Services Mutual Aid (For resources not covered in other discipline specific systems.)

2. In addition, the following systems are in the process of development:

- Volunteer Engineers Mutual Aid Response System
- Public Works Mutual Aid Response System
- Emergency Managers Mutual Aid Response System
- Water Agency Response Network (WARN).

These systems are in partial operation in certain areas. Established statewide procedures are not yet in effect.

Procedure:

Local governments (cities, county unincorporated areas, and special districts) will determine resource requirements to meet incident and other support needs. These will be for resources not found in the inventories of local Fire, Law, or Medical agencies and not coordinated through other channels.

Resource requests will be filled from within available inventories whenever possible. Unfilled resource orders will be directed to the Operational Area EOC. The Operational Area EOC will fill resource requests from jurisdictions within the Operational Area. The Operational Area EOC will ensure close coordination between the law, fire, medical and emergency services Mutual Aid channels.

Unfilled requests will be directed to the State OES Regional Operations Center (REOC). The REOC will fill resource requests from other operational areas within the region, from available state agency resources, or as appropriate from private and/or federal sources.

Under a Federal disaster declaration, Federal Emergency Support Function (ESF) coordinators will be located at the REOC and will assist in coordinating the use of Federal resources when they are required. The OES REOC will ensure close coordination between the Mutual Aid channels.

Unfilled resource requests at the OES REOC level will be directed to OES Headquarters State Operations Center in Sacramento. Orders will be filled from other OES REOCs, other state agencies, and/or private and federal resources.

Each of the established statewide Mutual Aid systems has well defined operating procedures and a personnel structure. Facilities and communication systems will vary based on the system.

In some cases, the personnel who operate the several Mutual Aid systems at the operational area and Mutual Aid regional levels are elected and may be representatives of other state agencies, non-state agencies and/or the private sector.

## IV.  Request Procedure for Mutual Aid

The field level Incident Commander does not normally determine whether resources ordered will be provided from Mutual Aid sources. That determination will be made at the Department Operations Center (DOC), dispatch centers or Local Government EOC level, and will depend upon availability of jurisdictional resources to meet the resource kind, type and time requirements of the incident.

Field Level Incident Command Systems will establish the initial requirement for additional resources as part of the incident planning process. Resource requests from an incident will be made by:

The Incident Commander - unless resource ordering authority has been delegated to the Logistics Section Chief.

Logistics Section Chief - if that position has been established, and if ordering authority has not been further delegated to the Logistics Section Supply Unit.

The Supply Unit - if that position has been activated and has been authorized to place resource orders.

If the local government determines that Mutual Aid resources are necessary, the resources will be ordered through the appropriate operational area discipline specific Mutual Aid system(s).

Mutual Aid requests will move vertically in the system until needed resources are obtained.

A.  Integration of Mutual Aid Resources into Field Level Incident Command Systems (ICS)

The application of Mutual Aid resources in support of an incident may take several forms depending upon the need. Mutual Aid resources may:

- Provide off incident back-up capability to a jurisdiction, thus releasing jurisdictional resources for use at incidents.

- Provide support and back up capability at incidents, thus releasing more jurisdictional resources for primary incident assignments.

- Operate in primary tactical assignments at an incident.

Mutual Aid tactical resources will consist of the equipment and the personnel required for the assignment. Tactical resources may be assigned directly to the Operations Section, or placed in an available status at an incident Staging Area.

Personnel resources may be assigned to any of the ICS organizational positions depending upon qualifications of the personnel and needs of the incident.

B. Coordination of Mutual Aid Information between Field and EOC Levels

Incident Commanders have the primary responsibility for maintaining information on Mutual Aid resources assigned to that incident. If activated, the Resources Unit in the Planning Section has this responsibility.

Agencies supplying Mutual Aid resources to an incident <u>may</u> also provide an Agency Representative who will accompany the resources and report to the Incident Liaison Officer.

Department Operations or Dispatch Centers will maintain records of Mutual Aid resource assignments to incidents on their own status keeping systems.

In those cases where city, county or operational area EOCs have been activated and have direct authority over incidents, the coordination of Mutual Aid resources and assignments of resources to incidents may be performed at the EOC level. This will usually occur when primary response DOCs or dispatch centers for fire, law enforcement and public works are located in the same facility with the jurisdictions' EOC.

C. Proper Request, Tracking and Release Procedures for Mutual Aid Resources

1. Resource Requests

   All resource requests must be specific and include the following information:

   - Kind of Resource
   - Type of Resource (if there are various types of the same resource)
   - Numbers of resources needed
   - Special Qualifications (of equipment/personnel as necessary)
   - Specific reporting location
   - Time required
   - Communications Requirements
   - Special Instructions (e.g. access/travel route, safety, environmental, etc.).

2. Tracking of Mutual Aid Resources

   <u>Off-incident</u>

   Off Incident tracking of Mutual Aid resource requests and movements are the joint responsibility of:

   - The assigned leaders of the designated Mutual Aid resources.

- Jurisdictions making Mutual Aid resource requests.
- Jurisdictions providing the resources.
- The Mutual Aid System Coordinators at appropriate SEMS levels.

<u>At Incidents</u>

Incoming Mutual Aid resources must check-in at a designated location at an incident. Resource tracking at an incident is always the responsibility of the supervisor assigned to the resources, and may also be done by the Resources Unit in the Planning Section if that function is activated.

3. <u>Release Procedures for Mutual Aid Resources</u>

Mutual Aid Resources assigned to incidents will often be the first resources to be released when they are no longer required. Care should be taken to ensure that adequate planning for resource release has been accomplished. On larger incidents, a Demobilization Unit within the Planning/Intelligence Section will develop a Demobilization Plan. That Plan will provide the priority, schedule and related information for resource release.

Release priorities for Mutual Aid resources will vary and must be determined at the time. Examples of release priorities related to tactical resources could be:

- Highest qualified resources (these may have more value on other incidents, or be the highest cost).
- Resources that have been on the incident the longest time.
- Resources traveling the farthest distance.

Demobilization Planning can be quite complex, especially on a large multi-agency incident. Specific guidance for demobilization planning has been prepared and is further discussed in the Field Course of Instruction; Modules # 11 and 14, for trainees interested in obtaining more detail.

## V. Command and Support of On-Scene Mutual Aid Resources

A. Command of Resources

Unless otherwise provided by agreement, the responsible local official, in who's jurisdiction an incident requiring Mutual Aid has occurred, remains in charge and retains <u>overall</u> direction of personnel and equipment provided through Mutual Aid.

While overall direction rests with the jurisdictional agency responsible for incident management, the determination of how Mutual Aid resources will be used and managed on an incident may be determined or influenced by several factors.

1. Policy of the Jurisdiction Supplying the Resources

   Some jurisdictions may supply Mutual Aid resources with the proviso that those resources must report to and take work mission type work assignments only from an individual from the supplying jurisdiction. This is often the case in situations where life safety is an issue, communications systems do not provide adequate communications for resources, or where there are possible differences in qualification levels for resources.

2. Qualifications/Certifications of the Resources

   Certain disciplines may have established inter-agency qualifications which will allow an inter-mingling of Mutual Aid and jurisdictional resources as long as they all meet minimum qualification standards.

3. Requirements of the Incident Action Plan and Level of ICS Activation

   Large incidents may provide a branch, division or group structure which will allow for the clustering of Mutual Aid resources from the same jurisdiction within a single organizational element. This may be done for geographic reasons or because of policy. On smaller incidents, this may not be possible thus requiring that Mutual Aid resources be distributed within the organization.

4. Decision of the Responsible Official Accompanying the Resources

   The leadership of the assigned Mutual Aid resources or the accompanying Agency Representative may determine how best the Mutual Aid resources can be applied based on their qualifications, communications, agency policy, safety factors etc.

B. Support of Mutual Aid Resources

   Support to Mutual Aid resources will vary depending upon the discipline involved and whether resources are enroute, in mobilization centers or assigned to incidents. In general the responsibility for support and service to Mutual Aid resources enroute to incidents will be provided by the agency providing the resources.

   Support for resources at incidents or in mobilization centers will generally be provided by the jurisdiction requesting the resources. Some disciplines may provide specialized support to their own resources while assigned to incidents.